

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 3

1700 Hours April 29, 2008

The next Situation Report will be April 29 2008 at 1700 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and tornadoes. National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed EF1 tornadoes in the City of Colonial Heights, Brunswick County, and Halifax County and NWS confirmed possible EF3 tornado in the City of Suffolk. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center continues to receive reports of storm related damage from across the Commonwealth from several jurisdictions and state agencies. Multiple injuries have been reported but no storm related deaths have been confirmed. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#).

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited augmented staffing. ***The VDEM Technical Support Unit (TSU) arrived at Suffolk Fire Station #3.***

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine will visit Suffolk today.

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. FEMA Region III deployed a State Liaison Officer to the State EOC on 28 April. Additional staff deployed on 29 April including a Federal Coordinating Officer and Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk Open

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Fielding local, national and international media inquiries. Coordinated Governor's visit to City of Suffolk.

WEATHER

Forecast: ***Tonight: Temperatures in the mid 30s to low 40s; winds 5-15 mph. Frost Advisory in effect for areas of SWVA from midnight until 0900 hours. Wednesday, 30 April: Mostly sunny with high temperatures in the upper 50's to mid 60's and winds of 5-10 MPH; patchy frost possible in areas of Southwest and Shenandoah Valley.***

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators and Hazardous Materials Officers are assisting impacted localities as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue:

One request by Suffolk for 5 cadaver dog teams to do a third sweep of debris and damaged homes. ***Dog Teams on scene continuing to sweep debris and damaged homes. Civil Air Patrol completed two air missions one with NWS, VDEM Regional Coordinator, and local officials for fly-overs of Brunswick, Suffolk, and potentially Northumberland counties. The other involved taking digital images of affected areas.***

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. VDH WTHD and local Red Cross activated to open shelters. Both Peninsula and Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Teams ***released. Three patients with storm related injuries were treated at Maryview Medical Center.***

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:

Virginia State Police (VSP)
VSP Division 1 has 12 troopers assisting Suffolk Police Department with traffic detours. In addition, 54 tactical field force troopers are staged at Suffolk Scale. Division 1 will supply 40 troopers and Division 3 will supply 16 troopers in relief at 1000 hours 29 April. Sgt. Kevin Barrick relieved the Suffolk City Public Information Officer at 0400 hours 29 April.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Animal Care and Control:

Virginia Beach SPCA
VBSPCA is working in partnership with Suffolk Animal Control to provide a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-923-2350), a temporary staging ground located at Suffolk Animal Control, 60 cages, an emergency trailer to be collocated with Humane Society of the United States forms missing/found animals temporary housing at animal control, a temporary collection site for missing/found animals and providing 24 trained staff. All animals will be “microchip” scanned. Reports of no large livestock issues at this time, many pets running at large.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations:

American Red Cross
ARC Southside Chapter is providing food at the South Park Mall primarily to first responders. Many donations have been collected from surrounding churches, Wal-Mart, and local restaurants. So far, approximately 200 meals were served, 28 April, preparing 100 meals for today. Three Emergency Response Vehicles responded 28 April. No shelter has been opened or anticipated. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Still waiting for additional disaster assessment information to determine anticipated casework needs. Suffolk County Chapter and Southeast Virginia Chapter Teams doing damage assessments. Identifying feeding site to provide meals today with VOAD partners. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. Planning to feed more than 500 people. Shelter at Kings Fork High School housed 51 people over night. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, “How You Can Help.”

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
VDOT crews removed debris from I-95 North/South in Colonial Heights as a result of the severe weather on 28 April. No lanes were closed; however traffic was backed up at least two miles in each direction near Exit 53. ***VDOT reporting only two roads closed due to yesterday’s weather, VA 10 at US 58 ramp and US 460 between Elephant Fork and Mead Parkway. These roads are City of Suffolk maintained.***

ESF 12 – Energy:

As of 1600 hours 29 April, Dominion Virginia Power reported approximately 4,500 customers without power system wide. This includes approximately 2,000 customers located in the Southwestern and Southeastern Virginia areas.

RECOVERY SECTION (ESF 14)

Initial Damage Assessment Report:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
<i>Colonial Heights, City of</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Halifax County</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Isle of Wight County</i>	<i>\$167,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Portsmouth</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Suffolk, City of</i>	<i>\$18,822,370</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$21,514,370</i>	<i>\$0</i>

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

VDEM has assigned one, completed and canceled two requests for assistance. One request for assistance is in review, three requests are in transport and one is in use.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management

Drafting Governor's Executive Order, preparing Situation Reports and Spot Briefs, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk:

Sentara Obici Hospital reported to be fully operational with some minor damage. Sentara Obici Hospital treated 70 patients only 3 remain hospitalized none in critical condition. Chesapeake General Hospital and Maryview Hospital treated and released an unknown number of patients. Regional Coordinator Wallace Twigg is on scene. There are 183 homes total that have been tagged as damaged. Initial Damage Assessments are underway. Residential inspections are being completed first. No commercial facilities will be done until the residential homes are done. One shelter open at Kings Fork High School. Route 58 is open, but 460 at Route 10 is still blocked. Schools have been cancelled for the day. A 6 station call center has been established for citizen calls at the City Recreational Department. Donations are being channeled through the Red Cross. Tetanus vaccines are being provided by the local public health agency for responders and some others.

City of Hampton:

Five Medic units to Suffolk Fire Station 5 released at 2200 hours, 28 April in Suffolk. Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Team members released ***at 0300 hours 29 April.***

York County:

The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with storm and possible tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.

City of Chesapeake:

Deployed 5 engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. ***Fire Department sent small bus and 15 passenger van to support Suffolk. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.***

City of Colonial Heights:

Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area. Multiple buildings reported damaged. Building Inspectors and Structural Engineers on-scene. Media sources reporting commercial damage to be approximately 2 Million dollars. Chesterfield fire units supported this response.

Isle of Wight County: *Twelve homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$167K. All fire/rescue apparatus has been returned to service by the Suffolk EOC. Isle of Wight Emergency Management conducted a conference with county administrators at 0900 hours to brief them on the situation.*

Halifax County: *Severe weather caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and three homes were affected. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed. The estimated damage to private property is \$500,000. No damage to public facilities and no roads were closed or damaged. No reported injuries or fatalities. No shelters necessary.*

Brunswick County: *Regional Coordinator Mike Cocker reported that the flyover is complete. Confirmed that and EF1 tornado touched down with wind between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. Tornado caused damage to 10-12 homes. Initial Damage Assessment conducted by Local Emergency Management Officials evening of 28 April. IDA results were received by VEOC. There is substantial tree damage. No injuries. American Red Cross staged at Lawrenceville Airport. Displaced individuals are being put in hotels. No plans to open a shelter at this time. NWS Assessment Team was on scene 28 April and confirmed an EF1 tornado in Brunswick County on 28 April. County schools are opening late today.*

City of Portsmouth: *Reports of minor damage in the Churchland (northeastern) section of the city. Reports of slight shingle damage on roofs, limbs, debris and fence damage. Per mutual aid request, sent 2 engine trucks, 1 ladder truck and 1 medic to the City of Suffolk on 28 April. Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk. City is currently working on damage assessment.*

Henrico County: *Assisted City of Colonial Heights with mutual aid request. 5 EMS units, 2 engine trucks, 2 supervisors, 1 heavy rescue technical team, and 1 Safety Officer were sent. All resources returned to Henrico at 1844 hours 28 April.*

City of Newport News: *Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.*

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